

3. Tags for Pollen Collecting

In the 1954 Maize News Letter, page 62, was an item by Burnham regarding labels for plants and ears. After corresponding with Burnham we devised a modification of his scheme which we believe better suited to corn plants. We secured standard checking strung tags size 5-1/4 x 2-5/8 inches. These are numbered in duplicate from 1 - 5000. (We re-numbered them with waterproof ink). The tags were tied to the plants shortly before pollen shedding. When the central spike began to shed pollen it was broken off and the bottom half of the tag was stapled (aluminum staples) around it and it was dropped into a jar containing 70% alcohol, where it remained until it could be examined for pollen abnormalities. The other half of the tag remained on the plant until harvest. Even with two hurricanes a fairly high percentage of tags remained on the plants. Information regarding sources of these tags will be supplied to anyone interested.

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